

Strange and True NEWS from
Lincoln-shire, Hunting-
Ton-shire, Bedford-shire, Northamp-
ton-shire, Suffolk, and Norfolk ; with Wilt-
shire, and Sommerfet shire, and many other places.

BEING A TRUE

RELATION

Of the Great and many FLOODS and INUNDATIONS
that happened in *England*, in *December*, and *January*, and *March*
1674. The Smothering of People in Snow ; the Drowning of
many Cattel, the beating down of Bridges and Houses, the wash-
ing up of Corn by the Roots, and drowning of many People.
To the great Loss and Grief of many Hundreds in this Nation.

ALSO

An Account of many great Waters, that happened in the Reigns of
Henry the 3d. *Edward the 2d.* *Henry the 4th.* *Henry the 6th.* *Richard*
the 3d. *Henry the 7th.* *Henry the 8th.* *Queen Mary*, and the un-
merciful Waters that fell in *King James's* Reign : as the Book within
doth more largely make Mention.

LONDON,

Printed for *John Clark*, at the Bible and Harp, in *West-*
Smith-field. 1674.

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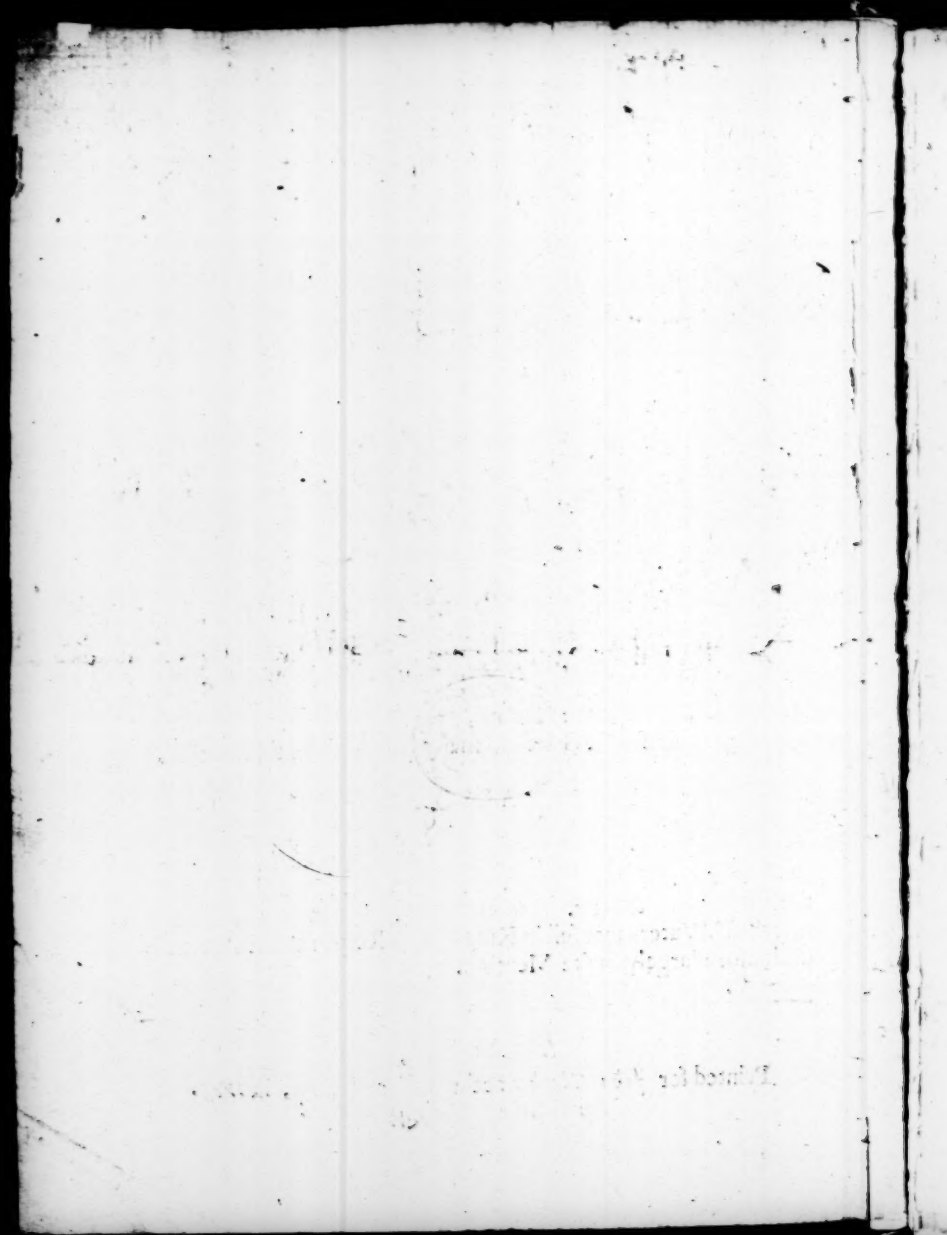
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Strange & true News from the Country, &c.



Oving Country-men, The News which I have to tell is very True, although it be sad, and comes from many places out of thy Knowledge; yet do not judge that what I Relate to be false, without thou art certain that God is not able to punish Sinners for their Sins: For truly shall I tell ye, this Age that we live in, is grown to that wicked pass, That we cannot believe one another in what we say, or promise to perform for flattering and dissimulati-

on is so common, that it is very hard to know our Friend from Foe, and the Devision that is among our selves, is a sufficient thing to draw Gods Judgments on us; for truly shall I tell ye, you shall not come in Company with five Men but three of them shall be in several Opinions, and all their dispute shall be about Religion, which is a sad thing, That men which profess Christianity and Knowledge in the Word of God, should be always talking and never doing: For shall I tell ye, That he is counted a brave Man that can hold a Scripture Discourse, over a Glas of Beer or Ale, two or three hours; and making poor Ignorant People believe that he is a brave Man, and a great Scholar, when he nere Read his Primer thorow. Likewise, there is a sad sort of men abroad, that are more like *Jews* than Christians; that will not believe any thing but what their Eyes do see: such I hope thou art not, which is to read this True Relation.

~ And First, I begin with those poor Rattags, that lost their Lives by the great Snow, that began to fall on the 25. of *February*, about Eight a Clock in the Morning, and continued till Ten at Night; which time the Evening Clearing, it Froze very hard, which made it lye all day

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A *Freshet*, the wind continuing in the North, about the heat of the
day, the Snow gave a lull; but about 3, in the afternoon, it fell a
Snowing till 6; and the wind chopping about N. E. it cleared up
but froze very hard, and so continued till *Tuesday* following, about
which time the wind turned N. W. and fell a Snowing, about 10 a
Clock in the Morning, and continued till 5 in the Evening; which
caused a very deep Snow to be in most parts of this Kingdom; to the
Ruine of Men and Cattel, and many men could not keep their Stages,
but was forc'd to lye in, for fear of danger; and those whose earnest
occasions would not permit him to stay, but was forc'd to Travel. Some
to my knowledge, how strange you may think it to be, what with
Snow and frost were froze to their Saddles, and could not be got off by
any means till they ungrated the Saddle, and so took them both of
together. On that same day was a Post-Boy, froze to Death on his
Horse, before he got to his Stage in *Southwark*, and was taken dead
of his Horse, and by no means of fire and hot Liquors, could be brought
to Life again. Many others that Rid that day, was forced to get Har-
bour in any House, the Roads being so deep in Snow and Ice, and wa-
ter in great holes, underneath that they could not go a foot-pace; and
besides, Ride in danger of their breaking their Horses Limbs, and their
own. Many Cattel that day was Smothered in the Snow; In many
places, especially poor little Sheep, and Lambs that lay in Pasture
Grounds, the Snow falling so suddenly, and in such a bundance, that
the Owners could not find the third part of them, but was fain to
Rake the Ditches, and pull them from under the Snow. There was al-
so at *Dunga Wood* corner, in the Country of *Northampton*, 5 Miles of
Higbam-ferries, and 3 Miles of *Ouz*, was 3 Men and one Woman Smo-
thered to Death, by this Snow, and all within a Bows shoot of another,
One Man and the Woman was going cross the Road to the Stile, for to
get in the Foot way, and Sunk in the Ditch by the Stile, and found both
together: The other two lay a pretty distance one from the other, and
was swallowed up in drefts of a story high. This Snow lay till Sunday
following the 8th. of *March*, and fell on that again another deep Snow,
and to add more to our sorrows, it continued freezing all the time till
about *Monday Noon*, the wind chopt about, S. W. and Thawed till
6 at Night, by which the wind got full North, and on *Tuesday* the
10 of *March* fell another deep and miserable Snow, & keeps still some
Carriers from coming to Town, and Beasts could not come so soon to
Town as they would have, which made Meat very Dear; and then on
Thursday,

Surfing, it Snow'd all the After noon in abundance, which made a very deep sorrow in many Peoples hearts : But on *Friday*, the 23 of the same Month *March*, it began to Thaw about 3 a Clock in the Morning ; and about 6 it fell a Raining pretty hard, which caus'd the Snow to Thaw so fast, that what with the Rain and Snow together, made the waters rise in abundance, to the damage of many hundreds of people in this Kingdom, breaking down of Bridges, drowning of Cattel and people, with many more Mischiefs it did : For where the great floods that was in *December* and *January* before, had undermined some Bridges and Houses that stood by the Water side, these sudden waters washed quite down, to the great damage of many Town and City, which if I should go to Relate all Damages that this great Snow has done, would be too tedious for me to tell, but only this I do tell for a Real Truth, and nothing but what I am sure is True.

And now I come for to declare those great waters that happened in *December* and *January* last, to the utter ruine of many good house-keepers, which was great Sufferers by those Inundations : and more especially Fens and Vale Countries, that lies near Rivers and Brooks, as some I shall name unto you, that were the Chief, for all is too many to come within this small Book : And first I'll begin with the Isle of *Eliz*, for it is known that in small Islands, there has been such great floods, that many Cattel were drown'd ; both Horses, Cows, and Sheep, to the undoing of many a Poor Man.

Marsh-Land, has had a great Drought of this Water, and was drown'd in many places into their Bed Chambers, About *Freston*, the waters made many Breaches in the Banks, and broke in upon their Cattel, and drown'd many. They Write from *Long Sutton*, that the Inundation was very bad there, and did much harm, Drowning many Cattel, and wash away divers Houses, and much Corn. They Write also from thence that there has been found the Bodies of Men, Women and Children Drown'd. *Whetstone*, was most dangerously Drown'd, So that it is thought a thousand pound will not make good their Losses. At *Tipton*, within a Mile of *Levington*, they received Damage abundance. *Prescot*, and those parts, the Corn which was in the Ground, is all wash't up by the Roots to the Damage of many. From *Wanfleet* and *Boston*, they Write, That the Waters has been so out, that the oldest Man Living, never knew such Floods, and the Towns never received so much damage, *Wallingford* is Hoated, and *Mauldin*, with *Germanys Tiding*, and a Town called *Terrington*, to the undoing of many people. They

They Write from *New Holland*, that the Inundation was so great there and so sudden, that they were fain to pull down their Hay-Cocks for their Cattel to get upon. Also in divers places the Waters was, 8 foot deep in their Houses and Burns, to the Damage of Corn and Goods.

Milnar in *Suffolk* was floated, and *Thetford*, and *Bran* in *Norfolk*, suffered but not so much as other Neighbouring Towns did. *St. Ives* was floated as high as the Crown, that their Drink Swam in their Cellars, and did much harm in Washing the Foundation of their Houses. *Erf*, 3 Miles beyond *St. Ives* was floated, so that they were fain to Row in Boats from one House to another, all about the Town.

St. Needs, in the County of *Huntington*, was such a Flood that their Records doth not make mention of any such these three hundred years. They write also from thence, that their Bridge is broken down, and Boats and Barges came Loaded on the Market-hill. Also there was one *Nicholas Isby*, that lives at *Ansbur*. Rowed a Boat over *St. Needs* Church-yard Wall, and knocked at the Door, which was never ever known that the Waters came so far as the Wall in their time, much more over.

Beuford has Received some Damage both Bridge and Jall.

Thee and a many more places in this Kingdom, as the *West Countrey*, as *Hurencon* in *Wiltshire*; their Bridge and several Houses be washt down. *Maisenhead*, and all up the *Thames* side suffered by these great Waters; but not so much as the *North of England*, but especially *Lincolnshire* about *Deopen*, and *Croland*. and the *Hallands* many poor people be undone; for those that had but a Cow to give a Mefs of Milk for their poor Children; these Floods has Devoured.

And thus have I given you an Account in short of these Inundations that has happened in our late time. And now for to fill up this Sheet, I shall tell you of some Floods that happened in former days. And first I begin, In the Reign of King *Henry* the Third, there fell so much Rain, that the *Hollands* in *Lincolnshire* was under Water.

In the 17th. Year of his Raigh, were seen five Suns at one time together; after which followed so great a Dearth, that people were Constrained to eat Horse-flesh, and Barks of Trees; and in *London*, twenty thousand were starved for want of Food.

In the Reign of King *Edward* the Second, the 8th Year of his Raighn was so great a Dearth, that Horses and Dogs were Eaten, and Thieves in Prison, pluckt those in pieces, that were newly brought in among them, and eat them half alive; which continued 3 Years, brought in the end such a Pestilence, that the Living scarce sufficed to Bury the Dead.

In the Raighn of *Henry* the Fourth, was such great Waters in *Kent*, which overflowed the Banks, and Drowned the Cattel in great Numbers.

In the Fifth Year of the Raighn of *Henry* the Sixth, was so unseasonable weather, that it Rained almost continually, from *Easter* till *Michaelmas*, in his 17th Year; was so great a Dearth of Cern, that people were fain to make them Bread of Farn-Roots. In his 22th year, on *New-years* Day near unto *Beaford*; A very deep Water which Run between the Towns of *Swelstone*, and *Harlfe Wood*, stood suddenly still, and devided it self: So that by the space of three Miles, the bottom was dry; and a small time after it Rained Blood, whereof the Red Drops Remained in the Sheets, as they hung to dry.

In the Second year of *Richard* the Third; the time when the Duke of *Buckingham* went to pass with his Army over *Severn*; so great an Inundation of water wa, that Men were Drowned in their Beds; Houses were over turned; Children were carried about the Fields, Swimming in Cradles: Beasts were Drowned on Hills, which Rage of VVaters continued for Ten days. And is to this day thereabouts called the great VVaters, Or the Duke of *Buckingham*s VVaters.

In the 12 Year of *Henry* the 7th on the 24. of *August*, in the Town of *St. Needs*, in *Huntington-shire*, fell Hail-stones that were Measured 18 Inches about.

In the 15th Year of *Henry* the 8th. happened abundance of Waters and VVind, and after that followed so Sore a Frost that many dyed with Cold, some lost Fingers, and some Toes. and many their Nales. In his 19 Year, by Extremity of Rain in Seed-time, there followed a Drought of Corn, which would have caused great Calamity but that it was Relieved by the Marchants of *LONDON*, that belong'd to the *Steel Yard*, out of *Germany*. And a Thousand Quarters Supplied out of the Kings own Provision.

In the latter end of *Queen Maries* Raighn, fell such abundance of Rain

Rain, that *Westminster-Hall* was full of VVater, and Boats were Rowed over *Westminster Bridge* into *King-Street*.

In the 24th Year of *King James*, being the Year of 1607. a mighty West VVind brought in the Sea into the River of *Severn*, with such violence, That in some places in *Sommerse-shire*, and *Gloucester-shire*, the VVaters in divers Towns and Villages, grew higher than the tops of their Houses So as notwithstanding, all means as could be used, there were drowned in *Sommerse-shire* 80. persons: and Damages done to the value of twenty thousand Pounds.

At *Coventry*, the 7th of *April* so sudden a Flood came into the Subburbs of the City, that in one hour it rose above 9 Foot in height, to the great Damage of many; and that which is as much strange, as it suddenly came, so it suddenly abated. So as in four hours and a half it both came and went away.

In his 6 Year, being 1609. A Frost began in *December*, which continued till *April* following; with such violence, that not only the *Thames* was so Frozen, that Carts Loaded, were driven over it as on dry Land; so as many Birds and Fowls perished.

In the Year 1614. there was a great Inundation of VVaters: So that the Sea in that time broke into *Lincoln-shire*, and *Norfolk*, 12 Miles into the Land.

And thus have I given you an Account of Gods Judgments by Water, for these 4 hundred Years: Hoping you are satisfied vvith vvhat here is Pen'd; and consider vvhat good Servants Fire and VVater is, but bad Masters, I Rest and Remain Yours, L. W.

FINIS.

